

Belgium

North = Flemish Region (**Flanders**) - Dutch

South = Walloon Region (Wallonia) - French

Education => regional level

Flemish Dept. Education and Training



Flemish Dept. for Education & Training

- Growing attention for international internships
- = leverage into labour market; employability
- = way to increase international mobility figures

- Action Plan (2013) 'Brains on the Move'
promoting international mobility in HEI's « 20% in
2020 » => Specific attention for internship
mobility

Flemish Dept. for Education & Training

- Financial support for international internships in US (TWC)
- ‘Generic scholarships’ for study or internship:
 - only creditmobility
 - outside EU / complementary to E+ (no cumulation) transport stipend
 - 514 000 € for 21 HEI’s / 650 € month
- Asem-duo (only studies)
- Internship mobility for graduates
- Financial support for ‘RECONFIRM’ Consortium

Higher Education Institutions

- Growing attention for internships:
acquisition of specific professional competences and intercultural skills
- Traditionally integrated in vocational training (regulated > prof. recognition)
- Increasing integration in academic curricula;
(compulsory (credits) vs voluntary internships (no credits))
- Internships for graduates (voluntary)

European level

European Commission:

- Promotion of international (internship) mobility (KA1)
- enhancing youth employment
internships: leverage for Eur. youth guarantee (ESF)
- Financial support:
Leonardo da Vinci programme LLP (ending 5/2015)
Erasmus+ programme (LLP) 2014-2020
Traineeship mobility
during studies or after graduation



Lifelong
Learning
Programme

RECONFIRM

Regional Consortium for International Internship Mobility

**Leonardo da Vinci
Transfer of Innovation project**



Lifelong
Learning
Programme



Project facts & figures

- LLP – Leonardo da Vinci – TOI
- **Regional Consortia for Internship Mobility – Reconfirm**
1/2/2012 – 30/9/2014 – extension 31/5/2015
- Budget: 400 000 euro
25% financing by partners
75% European funding
- Preparatory phase started 2 years before
- Initiated by U Antwerp and UGent

Projectpartners

- University of Antwerp (B) (coordinator)
- Ghent University (B)
- Flanders Knowledge Area (B)
- City of Antwerp (B)
- PSA (= international company) (B)
- Technical University Eindhoven (NL)
- Swiss Occidental Leonardo (CH)
- Nottingham Trent University (UK)
- SOP Hilmbauer&Mauberger (technical partner – software developer) (AU)

Project origin / driving forces

- Sustainable and social employability by internationalisation
- Added value of international internship mobility
- European support (LLP):
 - Erasmus Placements
 - Leonardo da Vinci programme (ends 31/5/2015)
- Limited access to European financial support for int. internship mob.; only few HEI's involved in LDV programme

Project origin / needs

- Poor connection education – labour market; need for dialogue, need to bridge the gap
- Need for pooling expertise; improvement of quality of internships
- Need to make European funding accessible for ALL graduates
- Need for higher efficiency:
 - administrative procedures
 - communicative tools
- Recommendations to policy makers

Project aims

- Creation of a central Flemish platform for international internship mobility
- Development of online administrative and communication tools (students and companies)
- Setting up a Flemish Regional Office for Traineeship Mobility (consortium)
- Funding accessible for ALL graduates
- Creation of a network
- Dialogue with policy makers and labour market; based on expertise and central data collection

Results

- Flemish Consortium for Traineeship Mobility – ‘Reconfirm’: application Feb. 2014: approved!
- Coordinator = Flanders Knowledge Area
- Partners: 18 (out of 21) Flemish HEI’s
- Mobility budget: 850 Erasmus+ scholarship months for traineeship in EU after graduation

Results

- **Software tool:** online admin. flow application for scholarships via Reconfirm (single point of contact) follow up by 1 FTE administrator (gives feedback to student's HEI)
- **Database** for traineeship search and posting offers by companies
- **Communication tools:**
flyers for target groups (students & companies)
website: www.reconfirm.eu
- **Dissemination tool:** handbook for other future consortia

Sustainability

- Preparatory to project phase: meetings with all HEI's in Flanders about the project, asking for feedback and input (since 2 years before TOI project)
- Expert Steering Committee; umbrella organisations
- Flemish Dept. of Education
 - Action plan on Mobility; paying attention to traineeships
 - Is willing to finance post project phase
- Flemish Consortium for Stagemobiliteit – Reconfirm; long term vision; centrally embedded

Future

- Further development of Reconfirm consortium / Flanders Knowledge Area as central information and contact point for international traineeship mobility
- Secure improved employability of graduates
- Development of dialogue
 - Among HEI's
 - With companies + expansion of database: profile search
 - With other relevant organisations
- Advice for policy makers based on central data
- Developing network

Conclusion

- Developments quite interesting; tailwind
- Welcoming idea of ASEM internships
- How to remove possible obstacles
- How to overcome the practicalities
- How to make ASEM internships a success

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Klik op buitenland na de studies > stage in de EU

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